



Middleham Church of England Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Admissions Policy 2019-20

Standard Number

Middleham Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School has a Pupil Admission Number or intake of 15. Children with a statement of Special Education Need or Education Health Care plan, which names the school, will be admitted. All applications will be considered equally.

Starting School

Admission of children below compulsory school age

Children who are offered a Reception place in the school will be able to start school in the September following their fourth birthday.

Parents may request that the date their child is admitted to the school is deferred until later in the same school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in that school year.

Parents may request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Requests for a child to start their schooling on a part-time basis or to defer the start until they reach compulsory school-age should be addressed to the Headteacher.

Compulsory school age is the beginning of the term following the child's fifth birthday.

Deferred entry to primary schools

Parents of children who are offered a place at the school before they are of compulsory school age may defer their child's entry until later in the school year. Where entry is deferred, the school will hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child during the remainder of the school year for which application was made.

It should be noted, however, that such children will only be allowed to start at the beginning of a term.

Parents may not defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the beginning of the summer term of the school year for which the original application was accepted.

Summer born children / children applying out of chronological year for admission

Children born in the summer term are not required to start school until a full year after the point at which they could first have been admitted - the point at which other children in their age range are beginning year 1. As noted above, school admission authorities are required to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday, but flexibilities exist for children whose parents do not feel they are ready to begin school at this point.

If you feel that your summer born child is not ready to start school in the September following his/her fourth birthday, you should still submit your application for your child's normal age group at the usual time and at the same time submit a request for admission out of the normal age group, this request should be sent to your local authority. You will be advised of the outcome of your request for delayed entry prior to the primary national offer date of 18 April 2017.

The Department for Education has issued some non-statutory guidance, "Advice on the Admission of summer born children."

Application Process

Application forms can be completed on-line at www.northyorks.gov.uk/admissions or a paper copy can be obtained from the school office or Local Authority. In the case of mid-year applications for a place an in-year common preference form, available from school or the Local Authority must be completed and returned to the Admissions Team. All requests will be considered by the Governors who will inform the local authority whether or not a place can be offered.

Appeals

Parents who have not been successful in gaining a place at the school have the right to appeal. Appeals should be made in writing to the Chair of Governors, c/o the school, within 20 days of notification that their application was unsuccessful.

Waiting List

In the event of over subscription, applicants who have been refused a place may request to be placed on the waiting list. The waiting list is maintained in the order of the over subscription criteria, and will be maintained in school until 31st July annually.

Criteria for over subscription

In the event that more applications are received than there are places available, places will be allocated as follows:

1. A 'looked after' child or a child who was previously 'looked after' but after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order.
2. Children with learning, social or medical needs for whom an appropriate professional has provided a written reference to say that attending this school is essential.***
3. Children living within the parish of Middleham, with Coverdale and East Witton who will have a brother or sister already in school at the expected point of entry. Please see *note. A map showing the parish boundary is attached.
4. Other children living within the parish of Middleham, with Coverdale and East Witton. A map showing the parish boundary is attached.
5. Children, or one or both parents, who attend a Church of England Church on average at least once a month for a minimum of one year. A written priest or minister reference will be required to verify applications under this criterion. It is the parental responsibility to ensure that the school has received this at the same time as the application form is received by the local authority. Please see **note below.
6. Other children who will have a brother or sister already at the school at the expected point of entry. Please see *note.
7. Children, or one or both parents attend a Christian Church other than who fall into criteria 5 above. A written priest or minister reference will be required to verify applications under this criterion. It is a parental responsibility to ensure that the school has received this at the same time as the application form is received by the local authority. Please see **note below.
8. Other Children.

Tie Breaker

If we cannot meet all preferences within any one of the above criteria, we will give priority to children living nearest the school. Please see **** note.

In the event that there are two or more applicants living equidistant from the school, remaining places will be allocated by the drawing of lots.

Notes

*note: All references to brother or sister include blood relatives, step brothers or sisters, adopted and foster children living at the home address

**note: Applications falling within criteria 5 and 7 will be required to submit with their application a letter from their priest or minister confirming that the criterion is satisfied.

***note: We will only consider applications in this category if they are supported by a written professional recommendation from a doctor, social worker or the appropriate professional which says that it is essential for the child to go to this school which is received at the same time as the application form.

****note: 'All distance measurements are based on the nearest route recognised by the County Council's electronic mapping system from a child's home to school. The routes measured to determine the allocation of places will be those recognised by the electronic system used by the school admissions team.

Governors should consider the following:

1. Wording for priority 1
2. Wording for priority 2 – what constitutes '**special** social or medical needs'.
3. Moving from written reference to Supplementary Information Form as this is more objective, transparent and less likely to be challenged.
4. Change of wording to 'one or more parents' (for attendance at worship).
5. Re-ordering *** system to make it easier for parents to read / make sense.
6. Choice of font that is easier for parents to read e.g. Arial, Calibri, Gill Sans.

Points 2 – 4 would require consultation.